

Practical 13 Tutor notes

There is so much to be said about the examples in the chapter that discussion could easily get out of hand and fill the entire seminar. It is best if students work on them at home, and the tutor directs class discussion towards a few select points. This is not as limiting as it may sound, because revision has been a regular part of practicals throughout the course. In Chapter 13, the function of the examples and our comments on them is really to focus attention exclusively on the kinds of thing to look out for in revising and editing.

13.1 Revising and editing

This assignment is suitable for either class work or individual work at home. However, class work in groups would be preferable, as much of the revision needed consists in bringing the TT more into line with the conventional phrasing and terminology of the genre, and such knowledge as is available can usefully be pooled. The significant mistranslation of 'soll verkauft werden' (l. 15) should not be allowed to pass unchallenged. We briefly discussed translation of 'der schlanke Staat' in the coursebook, in connection with connotative meaning (p. 125).

13.2 Revising and editing

The task here is a good deal subtler than in 13.1, and is best suited to individual work at home, with 20 minutes or so of class discussion to follow. Actual mistranslations are rare and relatively slight, and the English style and grammar resist easy criticism. Students may find it easier to submit a revised TT than to write a convincing analysis of what most native English-speakers will agree is a faintly unidiomatic quality affecting parts of the TT. Tutors may find it helpful to provide our sample revised TT.

PRACTICAL 13.2 CLASS HANDOUT

HAPIMAG TT

Compare the published TT with this revised one:

We take a first tour of inspection through the village. Pleasantly laid out, and no more than two storeys high, the Hapimag buildings make the most of a wonderful site of no less than 27 acres, sloping gently down towards a coastline that many consider the most beautiful in all Europe. They are informally placed, well apart from each other, and hold anything from 9 to 26 holiday apartments each. Altogether there are 196 member apartments here, of which 30 are studios, 137 have two rooms and 29 have three. In the whole spacious estate there are only the 13 buildings with holiday apartments, plus the principal building, so everyone has lots of room to breathe. Showing us round the grounds is Hapimag's resort manager. On our left, we are puzzled by a strange circular patch of ground, obviously dating back to old times. What on earth . . . ? The manager grins. We are on an ancient country estate, and what we are looking at is the circular threshing floor. Yes, it will stay, of course, and so will the old well with its ochre-coloured stonework. Also to be preserved are the gnarled and misshapen old fig trees. In autumn there will be a sweet harvest, no doubt to the delight of visiting children. Over in the direction of the tennis courts the ground slopes down more steeply, there is an olive grove nestling closely against its drystone retaining wall, and here and there an almond tree is already in blossom, bright against the backdrop of the sea.